

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus ~~for detecting a~~
~~key word from a text file corresponding to an event that has taken place and displaying~~
~~associated information corresponding to a present event said key word~~, comprising:

~~extraction means for extracting attribute information from an existing text file;~~

~~selection means for selecting an important word from among words contained in said~~
~~existing text file;~~

~~acquisition means for acquiring said associated information related to said important~~
~~word selected by said selection means~~ using existing information corresponding to a past
event;

~~database construction means for constructing a database by use of at least one of said~~
~~attribute information extracted by said extraction means and said associated information~~
~~acquired by said acquisition means;~~

~~event occurrence detection means for detecting the occurrence of said present event;~~

~~key word detection means for detecting a key word from said text file corresponding~~
~~to said event detected by said event occurrence detection means;~~

~~search means for searching said database constructed by said database construction~~
~~means for said associated information corresponding to said key word detected by said key~~
~~word detection means~~ said existing information having similarity to information
corresponding to the present event detected by the event occurrence detection means; and

display control means for controlling displaying of said associated information related to the existing information retrieved by said search means.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said event occurrence detection means detects sending, receiving, or editing of an electronic mail as said event.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim + 19, wherein said acquisition means acquires a title and a URL of a Web page containing said important word as the associated information.

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Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 3 19, wherein said acquisition means acquires, in a predetermined timed relation, said associated information related to said important word selected by said selection means.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim + 20, further comprising:

if an update condition is satisfied, update means for updating said database constructed by said database construction means.

Claim 6 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said update condition can be set by a user.

Claim 7 (Original): An information processing method for an information processing apparatus for detecting a key word from a text file corresponding to an event that has taken place and displaying associated information corresponding to said key word, comprising the steps of:

extracting attribute information from an existing text file;

selecting an important word from among words contained in said existing text file;

acquiring said associated information related to said important word selected in the selecting step;

constructing a database by use of at least one of said attribute information extracted in the extraction step and said associated information acquired in the acquiring step;

a' detecting the occurrence of said event;

detecting a key word from said text file corresponding to said event detected in the event occurrence detecting step;

searching said database constructed in the database constructing step for said associated information corresponding to said key word detected in the key word detecting step; and

controlling displaying of said associated information retrieved in the searching step.

Claim 8 (Original): A program storage medium storing a computer-readable program for detecting a key word from a text file corresponding to an event that has taken place and displaying associated information related to said key word, comprising the steps of:

extracting attribute information from an existing text file;
selecting an important word from among words contained in said existing text file;
acquiring said associated information related to said important word selected in the
selecting step;

constructing a database by use of at least one of said attribute information extracted in
the extraction step and said associated information acquired in the acquiring step;

detecting the occurrence of said event;

detecting a key word from said text file corresponding to said event detected in the
event occurrence detecting step;

a' searching said database constructed in the database constructing step for said
associated information corresponding to said key word detected in the key word detecting
step; and

controlling displaying of said associated information retrieved in the searching step.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): An information processing apparatus for displaying a
character on a display device and for displaying associated information related to a text file
processed by a predetermined application program, comprising:

processing detection means for detecting, as an event, predetermined processing of
said predetermined application program;

key word detection means for detecting a key word from said text file processed by said predetermined application program corresponding to said event detected by said processing detection means;

search means for searching a database for said associated information by searching a data base for ~~said associated information~~ a previous processed existing file corresponding to said key word detected by said keyword detection means;

input means for inputting a command;

command processing means for executing, in response to said command inputted by said input means, processing on said associated information retrieved by said search means; and

a1. display control means for displaying, in response to said event detected by said processing detection means, said character onto said display device and changing a manner of displaying said character in response to said command inputted by said input means.

Claim 10 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said display control means also displays text information as a script of said character.

Claim 11 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising output means for outputting a voice signal corresponding to said text information displayed by said display control means.

Claim 12 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said command processing means displays, on said display device, said associated information retrieved by said search means in an object form with respect to at least one of movement, storage, and deletion, in response to a display command inputted by said input means.

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Claim 13 (Original): The information processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said command processing means stores said associated information in response to a storage command inputted by said input means and displays a list of the stored associated information onto said display device.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said associated information ~~of~~ is a URL of a Web page and said command processing means starts a WWW browser so as to access said URL of said Web page as said associated information in response to an access command inputted by said input means.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): An information processing method for an information processing apparatus for displaying a character on a display device and for displaying associated information related to a text file processed by a predetermined application program, comprising the steps of:

detecting, as an event, predetermined processing of said predetermined application program;

detecting a key word from said text file processed by said predetermined application program corresponding to said event detected in the processing detecting step;

searching for said associated information by searching for said associated information a previously processed existing file corresponding to said key word detected in the key word detecting step;

inputting a command;

executing, in response to said command inputted in the inputting step, processing on said associated information retrieved in the searching step; and

displaying, in response to said event detected in the processing of said detecting step, said character onto said display device and changing a manner of displaying said character in response to said command inputted in the inputting step.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A program storage medium storing a computer-readable program for displaying a character on a display device and for displaying associated information related to a text file processed by a predetermined application program, comprising the steps of:

detecting, as an event, predetermined processing of said predetermined application program;

detecting a key word from said text file processed by said predetermined application program corresponding to said event detected in the processing detecting step;

searching for said associated information by searching a database for ~~said associated information~~ a previously processed existing file corresponding to said key word detected in the key word detecting step;

executing, in response to a command inputted, processing on said associated information retrieved in the searching step; and

a¹ displaying, in response to said event detected in the processing of said detecting step, said character onto said display device and changing a manner of displaying said character in response to said command inputted.

Claim 17 (New): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

grouping means for grouping said existing information into a group of existing information based upon attribute information of said existing information,

wherein said acquisition means acquires the associated information related to said group of existing information made by said grouping means as said existing information,

said search means searches for said group of existing information as said existing information having similarity to information corresponding to the present event detected by the event occurrence detection means, and

the display control means controls displaying of said associated information related to said group of existing information as said existing information retrieved by said search means.

Claim 18 (New): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 17, further comprising:

weight calculation means for calculating weight of key words contained in each said group of existing information,

selection means for selecting an important word among said key words based upon said weight of key words,

a' wherein said acquisition means acquires said associated information related to said group of existing information using said important word selected by said selection means.

Claim 19 (New): The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said existing information corresponding to said past event is an existing text file and said information corresponding to said present event detected by the event occurrence detection means is a text file, further comprising,

selection means for selecting an important word from among words contained in said existing text file,

wherein the acquisition means acquires said associated information by using said important word selected by said selection means as said existing information.

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Claim 20 (New): An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

extraction mean for extracting attribute information from the existing information;

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and

database construction means for constructing a database by use of at least one of said attribute information extracted by said extraction means and said associated information acquired by said acquisition means.
